



# Living Waters Intl

## Living Waters Newsletter August, 2006

Lake Victoria's Lighthouse of H2OPE  
Kaswanga/Wanyama  
Rusinga, Mbita, Kenya

It is a privilege to report the events of the past two months to so many of you who have faithfully supported Living Waters by many different means. It has been but a short time since a group of six returned from south of the equator in Kenya. Our experience is one of extremes; from high to low and back to high. I would like to share our story and I hope that you will not only enjoy it but that you will be inspired to yield your life and resources to a happiness that cannot be written on mere sheets of paper. There is a heart inspired



change that takes place when you are part of helping others that are helpless to help themselves. This was experienced greatest by the opportunity we had to do the simplest of sharing. Assisting with feeding hundreds of little children, with the rain pouring down on us and sharing a kind word that Jesus loves them is one experience that none in our group will ever forget.

### Organizational Status

But let's retrace events since our last newsletter. In July Living Waters International was officially formed and recognized by the Arizona Corporation Commission as a non-profit corporation. We are governed by a Board of Directors, of which I am grateful for the experience and expertise that they bring to Living Waters.

### Acknowledgments

If you are receiving this newsletter, you most likely have a vested interest in the project at Kaswanga. The Living Waters "Lake Victoria's Lighthouse of H2OPE" would not be possible without the dedicated support of each of you. On behalf of every person in Kaswanga, Wanyama and elsewhere in Kenya who received a benefit from the Living Waters project and from our Board I want to say a big "thank you".

Thank you to Ace Hardware, Buds Plumbing, Payson Paint and Wal-Mart for the help with supplies. Thank you ADRA for the help in transportation coordination and supply delivery.

Thank you to The Quiet Hour, Arizona Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and the women of the Payson SDA church for the beautiful Bible story felt sets that provided 3 churches and thousands of people with the first visual aids for teaching Bible stories. Thank you KARA, Globe and Copper Cities Rotary clubs for funding the shipping of the 12 tubs of medical supplies, drip irrigation systems, tools and the water filtration and purification system.



### Your Contributions at Work

The July trip to Kaswanga was a success. The scope of the trip covered 26 days, with 6 mission minded staff volunteering their personal time, energy and



resources. No less than 4 staff was ill from amoeba related disease. There were no significant injuries reported from this extremely strenuous work however, one of our local Kaswangan's team member died 4 days into the project.

**The Impact of your Contributions** has directly reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases by providing fresh water; provided medical supplies for the local clinic, food for the hungry, educational programs for school children and support to the orphans.

Your contributions are for to the Board of Directors.

We continue to work on Phase 2 as it has yet to be completed. We are working on efficient means to have ongoing work accomplished by hiring a local engineer who has accepted the position of Living Waters onsite project coordinator.

**A special thank you to each of you** who sacrificed your financial resources to assist people whom you have never met, to provide them with opportunities of fresh water, thereby reducing the waterborne diseases that are a contributing factor for 75 percent of the deaths in this area. Your sacrifice is allowing families to successfully grow gardens to feed not only their starving children, but they in turn are assisting with feeding the orphan children who have no adult to help them meet their hunger needs.



All of you are truly awesome. Your contributions were an affirmation to us that we were indeed following Gods will in spreading the Good News.

### **Your valuable contributions provided:**



- ▶ 20 drip irrigation systems to assist in combating starvation
- ▶ Supplies for ½ mile of water line, wind mill pump replacement, water filtration and purification systems, purchase of 2 additional large water tanks,
- ▶ professional and non-skilled labor
- ▶ local transportation expenses
- ▶ accommodations and meals for missionary staff
- ▶ fuel for numerous generators supplying power for water pumps and electrical energy
- ▶ shipping of 12 tubs with medical and other supplies from the US to Kaswanga

- ▶ medications for the sick
- ▶ assistance to the orphans
- ▶ health talks to over 1000 school age children
- ▶ sharing the gospel through the "Jesus" video seen by approximately 9000 people
- ▶ a variety of other incidental projects related to any of the above

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## **Our Story**

My son Joby, and I left one week before the rest of the group so we could have a head start with the project. We anticipated potential problems with supply delivery and labor availability and felt impressed to get an early start.

July 12th arrived and at 2 am. Joby and I were completing the final checklist of all the preparations that had to be completed before we left. We still needed to pack our carry on luggage (which held all of our personal belongings) and planned to leave at 2:30 am. We started our long 40 hour journey after 2 nights without sleeping more than 2 hours.

## Food for the Children:

The first full day in Nairobi provided both of us with a most shocking experience. We met with a retired physician, Dr. Hal Burchel who was working in the Kibera slums. This is the world's second largest slum and has over one-million people living in situations that can not be described. This was our first opportunity to visit the feeding program funded and directed by JL Williams's founder of New Directions. ([www.NewDirections.org](http://www.NewDirections.org)).



Seven hundred children are fed three meals a day by dedicated staff who cook massive amounts of food in huge pots. The children bring whatever small bowl-like container they have and get one scoop of beans and potatoes or cabbage and ugali. They most likely will only eat a small portion of the bowl's contents as they have siblings at home who have nothing. Soon you see the children disappear in a maze of humanity as the kids take their brother or sister a few bites.



In my humble opinion this is one of the ministries that comes closest to what I imagine Christ's compassion for man to be. There are 3 other feeding programs in the slum, one of which is near extinction due to a lack of funding. Twenty cents, just twenty pennies feeds a child, 3 meals a day, yet 400 children are about to lose this simplest of basic needs because of a lack of money. Our hearts were seared with coals of compassion that words will never describe.

When the rest of the crew arrived the following week, they each had the incredible experience of handing children bowls of food, rain pouring down their backs and bright smiles of appreciation for a meager bite of food.

## Across Kenya, camera in hand:

Joby and I continued our journey across Kenya with the constant clicking of Joby's camera. His initial purpose was to document the Living Waters project for his senior internship as a communication major. His role became invaluable and the lives he touched included many. In return God touched his. In the villages of Mbita and Kaswanga young and old who I never had met would ask, "Where is Joby"?

Our first day was filled with meetings and introductions which are very formal and necessary. Our second and third day included a general assessment of all of the project areas and formalizing the action plan to complete the projects that I naively thought I could accomplish.

## Our Challenges began..

- ➔ **Our supplies had not arrived nor had the project coordinator from ADRA.**
- ➔ **The need to dig a 10' deep trench 300 feet long to the lake:**

This is where the 4 inch pipe will provide an unlimited supply of water to the windmill cistern. The water is to flow by gravity and fill a 20 foot deep well. This provided a challenge because the well needed to be dug 10 feet deeper so the pipe would drain well below the lake level.



Well drilling consisted of 2 men in a three foot diameter hole scooping mud and water into buckets to be raised by ropes. As fast as they worked the water continued to fill the hole. This required the use of a broken water pump and petro to fuel the

broken pump. This meant new parts before the work could continue. Parts were only 1 hour away which is a 2 hour round trip.

- ➔ **The local transportation** that had been arranged for us consisted of a “*very much in need of burying*” pick-up truck. Every day we had to get something on the truck repaired just to get us and whatever supplies we could buy to the work site.
- ➔ **And then there's the pump:** In the process of removing the existing water pump from the windmill it was discovered that the pump was in need of significant repair. After contacting the only windmill pump manufacturer in Kenya we found out that the parts had been on backorder for that particular size pump but that we could purchase a new pump with a greater capacity. This all sounded great until we got the final price for the new pump, which included a four day visit by a pump technician to install it, his travel, meals and lodging expenses.

### God's Wonderful Provision:

Joby and I were to go to Nairobi to work on the pump purchase and to meet the rest of the group. At the last minute we were informed that the vehicle that was to take us would not be allowed to leave Mbita. We were dropped off at the local ferry that would take us across a section of a large bay and deposit us in unknown territory. We then could catch a matatu (something that resembles a dead mini van with about 30-40 nationals in it) for a 22 hour ride to Nairobi. Instead, God opened the way for us to catch a ride in an occupied taxi to the city of Kisumu where we caught a quick flight to Nairobi. This may all seem pretty easy, but it wasn't. The last flight for the day on which we had been booked was cancelled and it took a token (politically correct word for bribe) to get us on the only other flight that was leaving.

We were delighted to successfully connect with the rest of our group: my wife Mary Jo, my oldest son Justin and Charles and Anthony, staff from White Horse Media. A very special thanks to White Horse Media and its Board of Directors who authorized Charles and Anthony to travel to Kenya and do a professional film documentary on the Living Waters project. This will provide a broad base of exposure and attention for additional funding sources to this project.

### Out of Africa- God's Magnificent Creation:

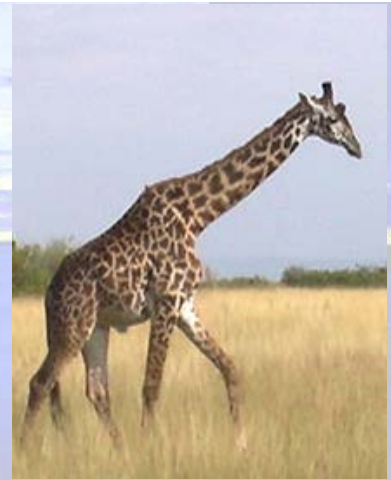
We had a very short but most interesting opportunity to take a side trip to the largest wild game park in Kenya, the Maasai Mara Game preserve. Here we would sleep in a basic camp near the Maasai village and take morning and evening game drives into the heart of the wild kingdom.



While some people find great pleasure in the sport of killing these magnificent animals, we were content to shoot them with a camera. Kenya has seen the wisdom in prohibiting wild game hunts as the financial impact from tourists experiencing these creatures living in their natural surroundings far outweighs big game hunting dollars.

We experienced the migration season of the zebras and wildebeest. For miles and miles as far as the eye could see or imagine, there were animals migrating to the tall savannah like grasses that covered the rolling plains of the northern end of the Serengeti.

Up close and personal, we experienced huge herds of elephants, at one location numbering close to 100. We watched lion cubs play as their mothers kept a watchful eye and we were within feet of magnificent males basking in the sun on the large lava rocks.



### **Patience Has Her Perfect Work:**

After leaving the Maasai Mara we traveled for 10 hours over very rough terrain to Mbita. The roads prohibited traveling any faster than an average of 15 mph. By the time we reached our destination that evening we were sore and bruised from the jostling.

Early the next morning we left the village of Mbita where we would be staying for the next week to travel daily to the village of Wanyama. This is where Mary Jo would present her first of 5 health talks to about 450 children. From the beginning this day proved to be a disaster. The generator that was supplied lacked fuel so it was a quick trip back to Mbita for fuel. When the fuel arrived, the carburetor needed repaired so that took extra time. All this time the students were noisily anxious for the program to begin. Finally, the generator started and “on with the show”.



I moved to the next project 3 miles away to where the well diggers were to be working at the windmill. To my dismay, nobody was working. I found out that several things had happened. The money we had provided to pay for the wages arrived 4 days late. Therefore nobody was going to work until I showed up with money to meet payroll, which is to be paid daily. Secondly, the local person who had committed to organizing the local labors had died while I was gone to Nairobi. And lastly, those who were there to work, were just not working. This last incident was one of the invaluable lessons that I was about to learn, but would not understand until I left Kaswanga and returned to the States. You see, life is lived much differently there. There is no sense of time being an important factor. Efficiency is not understood and my type A personality made a difficult situation even more difficult, for the local villagers and myself alike. Having a goal is a must, but expecting that my agenda and hard work would accomplish that goal in an effective and efficient manner was not the priority of the local people. About this time I received word from Mary Jo that the generator had surged and that the power supply to her computer which she was using for her health talks had burnt up. From then on she had to rely on the only other availability for the talks. Her notes.

The local villagers would laugh at my desperate attempts to get the project on track for my attempts would interfere with the “greetings of the day”. I would laugh and tell them that I had much to learn of their culture and then try to slow my anxiety down to a snail’s pace to accommodate their expectations. My attempts usually lasted a couple of hours before additional frustrations brought out my expressions of needing to keep the project progressing. This is all I will say regarding my frustration at the lack efficiency.

### **Fresh Food for the Hungry!**

The gardens that were planted in April with the drip irrigation systems we installed were flourishing. The irrigation committee chairman Narkihso had tripled his yield by cultivating 3 plots next

to each other and moving the irrigation system each day to another plot. All of the gardens were on their third crop of vegetables since April. This was evidence of the value of these simple inexpensive systems.



Joby took responsibility for the drip irrigation systems. He developed a mechanism that would ensure individual success to those who were to receive the additional systems. Instead of giving the systems to individuals where there was no real accountability, he decided they should be turned over to the irrigation committee. It then became the responsibility of the irrigation committee to designate who should get the systems and to follow-up to determine that the systems were indeed being utilized as planned. Joby developed a simple contract for each person who would receive a system. The contract had conditions for the receiver to follow in order to keep the system.

These included things like:

- ➔ Fencing the garden to keep the goats out
- ➔ Growing vegetables as planned
- ➔ Maintenance of the system
- ➔ Notification to the committee if there were problems

The Committee would also do random inspections to make sure the system is being utilized.



Another plan for the irrigation systems is for graduates of the Nybola Secondary Girls School. A system was given to the school and they will provide a course curriculum in Gardening. Each student will have the opportunity to grow their own garden plot. Students, who have been in this program for 2 years before graduation, will be presented with a system to take with them to their new homes. This provides an ongoing opportunity for the girls to use what they have learned and provide for their families.

Joby is currently planning on recruiting 6 students from Pacific Union College, do fundraising and travel to Kaswanga over their Christmas break to install 100 additional garden systems. This could directly benefit up to 1000 people, mostly orphans. This will be a tremendous amount of hard work for these young men and women, so please keep them in your prayers.

The drip irrigation systems will become one of Living Waters major objectives. The systems that Joby will be installing will primarily be for grandparent and foster parent headed homes for orphans. This will provide opportunity for more orphans to be cared for by grandparents, relatives and foster parents. By increasing the availability of food, more orphans will find homes available for their care. Justin reported that at one child-headed home he visited, the children reported receiving a meal every 3 days. With your help and commitment Living Waters intends to change this.

### **Time Winding Down:**

The well digging had to be stopped 2 days before we were to leave because the slow progress was interfering with the need to get water flowing from the windmill again. While the windmill was taken out of commission there was no water supplied to the school which is dependent on it.

The trenching was progressing and by Thursday (2 days before we were to leave) the plumbers were starting to lay the ½ mile of 2 inch galvanized pipe that would carry water Kaswanga village.



This was the day that we met the enormous challenge of getting a mammoth size plastic water tank 30 feet into the air and inside of the existing elevated steel tank, which we had found too costly to repair.

We removed the lid off of the old tank and attempted to hoist a mammoth 2000 gallon water tank up into it. I can not describe the difficulty in accomplishing this endeavour, but let it suffice to say that 10 men in the elevated tank and 3 men

working from the bottom could not seem to get the tank to roll over the last 6 inches of the side wall. We were literally “at the end of our rope” with no more strength to muster in the 110 degree heat and after 2 hours of intense pulling we thought we would fail. At that moment it was as if an angel just gave the last little push and the tank rolled up and over the wall. I knew at that very moment a miracle had happened. There was no doubt in my mind that angels assisted at the point when I realized that “we in ourselves could not physically do this on our own”.

This was also the day that we completed the construction of a security platform surrounded by metal mesh to secure the purification system. We had designed this platform half way up the elevated tank.

Using timbers, wire mesh and some steel plate we built a secure steel box with a locking latch which was enclosed inside a wire mesh area that also had a gate and a lock. The challenges of getting this built were many and yes, miracles again happened.



The simplest of things we take for granted are unconceivable in the bush of Africa. God had many lessons for me to learn while on this trip and I am sure I am still learning them. For most local villagers it would be very difficult to plan what we would consider a simple action plan for a particular project. This is not because these people are ignorant. It is because they have seldom had much of anything to work with and the abstract idea of projecting what your supply needs are in advance has never been developed. It is a lesson that I would learn that had less to do with the lack of what they had, but more on how incredibly blessed we have been as a nation, society and culture to have had the opportunity to have these concepts instilled into our every day way of thinking.

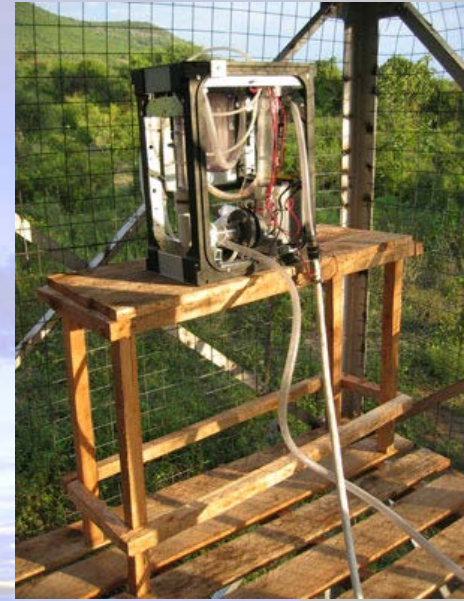
### **The Final Day:**

Our last workday on the project dawned with full expectation that by the end of the day the project would be complete and our mission would be accomplished. After all, I believed that by doing what we



had been called to do would assure us of success. Again, my optimism and enthusiasm were both to be put to the test. For months I had meticulously prepared every

detail, brought supplies for the unexpected, and anticipated every scenario so that this project would be completed, but as the day progressed I found out that the project was stalling and the hands of the clock were ticking away fast. By 2 pm I was starting to doubt that we would indeed complete what we had set out to do. After all, that was my measurement of success. It was absolutely imperative that the windmill pump start pumping water by now, so I could start the purification system up, test it and start filling the 3 tanks that sat waiting to hold purified water for the villagers. What, another delay? Another trip to Mbita for another cutting and welding of pipe to make the windmill functional!



### **If you can picture this:**

In sheer desperation I am hurrying from one project location to the next. The sun is hot, I am out of water, and I have lost 15 pounds in 10 days. I am walking 15 miles per day trying to coordinate all aspects of this project. I am down to the few remaining hours; the water filtration and purification system are installed. All I need is for the water to flow.



At 5 pm, when I reach the windmill site, just 30 minutes before our Sabbath begins, we are blessed with an unexpected miracle. The repairs to the windmill have been completed and the water is beginning to be pumped. It must reach the elevated tank almost a mile away and then we can have pure water flowing. The plumbers have completed the last connection of pipe in the village and the water kiosk and valves are in place.

They must connect one last pipe that will tie the entire system together. This will connect the tank that supplies the village thus connecting everything we had been working towards.

We are desperately trying to beat the clock and finish this job before Sabbath and just then the devil gives a final attempt to create failure. As the last piece of pipe is connected at the concrete tank, the water outlet on the tank blows out, leaving a gaping 12 inch diameter hole in the side of the tank near the bottom. This requires a mason (who completes the repair in 1 hour) and 2 days for the concrete to cure. It is finished. There is nothing for me to do but admit defeat. It is absolutely certain that water will not be flowing into Kaswanga before we must depart. I feel a sense of both failure and relief. I feel as if I had failed to complete what I came for, yet I feel relieved that nothing else could go wrong. I was done. I could not accomplish anything else. We could not stay even an extra day because we had spent every bit of our funds. We did not have enough left for another night of lodging or extra meals. We were totally empty of energy, time, enthusiasm, ideas and money. We had enough to return to Nairobi, barring anything more than fuel and food.

**Disappointment?**



You see, tomorrow, Sabbath was to be a spectacular celebration. Plans had been put into place to have a community celebration with thousands of villagers present to turn on the water. This was to be the culminating event. This was to be the end of the story for the film crew. This was our mission accomplished celebration. This was to be the goal of months of planning, fund raising, finagling and anxiety. This was to be our high day.

### **No Regrets!**

That night as I lay exhausted, I asked God to reveal to me why. I was sure I was sent to accomplish this task and yet, I was to leave without it being completed. Here I list some of the reasons that I feel God gave me these types of challenges.

1. We know that we are doing something right for God when so many curves get thrown our way. The more successful this project, the more of Gods love shines through and that is something that the devil will do his best to prevent.
2. There were enormous lessons to be gained regarding our total dependence of God. Each day and each trial were overcome by submitting "that only by His power would we accomplish our task". If self got in the way, we had the opportunity to be brought back to reality.
3. There is something positive to be said regarding our leaving without completion of the project. It leaves a responsibility for the local villagers to complete it (of which I have no doubt they will) but more importantly, it strengthens our faith that God is ultimately in control. It is His project with which we have been entrusted to do the very best we could, and we did. Yet, there is always room to learn to trust and that is where we left this project.

### **God is So Good!**

When we pause to consider the accomplishments and we can but awe at all that was done. After all together in seven days together we had;

- ➔ Provided health talks to over 1000 children, giving them basic information that provides them the opportunity to take some control with the health of their life
- ➔ Almost completed a trench, 10 feet deep and 300 feet long
- ➔ Started the process of deepening the well
- ➔ Trench and laid ½ mile of water pipe
- ➔ A new 5 inch water pump was purchased and installed
- ➔ Refitted the unusable elevated water tank with a 2000 gallon new tank
- ➔ Created a system of 6 water tanks for holding purified water
- ➔ Built an elevated security zone to house the purifier with space to accommodate 2 workers and a movable solar panel system to capture the sun as it moves east to west
- ➔ The supplies for this project were purchased by donations
- ➔ Joby coordinated the installation of 20 drip irrigation systems for garden plots that will supply approximately 200 people with fresh vegetables. My eldest son Justin also worked diligently with this project.
- ➔ 1000 orphan children were provided bars of soap for body washing
- ➔ 6 large plastic rubbermaid tubs of medical supplies were delivered to the medical clinic
- ➔ Three, large Bible story felts sets were provided to local churches. These were primarily given to assist in teaching young children about Jesus and His love, yet the adults alike found them to be fascinating
- ➔ The film crew did a fabulous job of capturing the scope and reality of the project
- ➔ An incredible opportunity for a father and 2 sons to bond as only this type of experience will afford
- ➔ And last but not least. Between 8000 and 9000 people saw the powerful and gripping "Jesus" video.





Understand this is no small feat! With a generator, projector, DVD player and large piece of white material we showed this incredible movie in their language on a 20 x 20 foot screen. For those who have never seen this movie, you have really missed something. It was incredible to watch it in Luo and yet feel the indescribable power it contained. It brings to life how wonderful and sacrificing Jesus was. Every part of His life was to help others, even with His dying breath. On the last night I was running the equipment which was located in a “sea of little children”. There were about 1800 young children crammed so tightly together that I could not move from my position. The people could really identify with the story as it was filmed showing conditions that were very much like the living conditions of these local people. It showed the daily hardships and struggles that were basically mirror images of how these villagers live. The hunger, illness and death were so much a part of life then and now. I can not tell you how great and powerful that was.

Our trip was coming to an end and we were all relieved to be returning to a life where everything isn't difficult. Even though some of our team suffered amoeba related illnesses, and we were constantly challenged with new issues, I am sure we all felt that our experience was truly “one of a lifetime” and that we all gained incredible insight to “our life of plenty”.


### **Where do we go from here?**

There is much to be done and this project continues. We have evaluated ways to effectively continue with meeting the needs of this area. The water project is not complete. We continue with this phase by adding another water kiosk which will require another ½ mile of pipe. The original system has been upgraded with additional sediment filters but needs to be tied into the main water supply for the school. We were delighted to hear that all cases of typhoid were eliminated and most of the dysentery has been eradicated. The government was about to close the school because of the poor water quality and now they have been allowed to continue. The original system can provide 1000 gallons of pure water daily to the school. The drip irrigation systems are providing the 3rd crop of vegetables since their installation in April.

People's lives are being significantly impacted by the project of Living Waters. Lifestyle behavior changes are reported by many authorities and life expectancy will be impacted. Seventy five percent of the diseases are related to the impure water and that is being improved.

You have all had a part in making this happen. You can feel grateful that your contributions are making a difference. Without each of you as donors, this would not be happening. Yet, there is much to do. We have exhausted our funds for this project and so the cycle continues. Living Waters is in need of your support again. We have come a long way, yet the job is not finished. We desire to continue on and to provide the following:

- ▶ Completion of the digging of the well

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- ▶ Complete the gravity feed water system bringing lake water to the well, thus eliminating the need to use a gasoline powered pump since they have no money for the fuel
  - ▶ Refitting the windmill for the deeper well
  - ▶ Repair the windmill transmission system
  - ▶ Installing another ½ mile of water pipe for another kiosk
  - ▶ Installing the Tom Mboya Secondary School purification system inline, thus providing fresh water to all who use this resource on campus, including; staff housing, the dorms, water kiosk and kitchen.
  - ▶ Install 100 additional drip irrigation systems to grandparent and foster parent headed homes for the orphans
  - ▶ Provide 3 more churches with Bible felt sets
  - ▶ Encourage sponsors for orphans to be fed and attend school. A child could be sponsored for \$30/month.

The need is great but your individual resources combined will provide Living Waters the ability to continue this valuable work on the island of Rusinga. Time is of an essence. Lives are being lost and lives are being saved. Please help us in saving these people's lives. Thank you for your continuing support.